

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 IO-10 ACDA-10 SAM-01 BIB-01

SAJ-01 NIC-01 /076 W

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O R 231050Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 95

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 1301

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TH, US

SUBJ: GENERAL DRIANGSAK CHAMANAN ON U.S. FORCE LEVEL TALKS

GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN GAVE A NEWS CONFERENCE JANUARY 22, 1975 CONCERNING U.S. FORCE LEVEL TALKS. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS:

KRIANGSAK I HAVE INVITED YOU HERE TO DAY IN ORDER TO MAKE STATEMENTS TO YOU ON SUBJECTS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AT PRESENT.

A SUBJECT OF IMPORTANCE CONCERNS MEETINGS OF THE THAI-AMERICAN COORDINATION COMMITTEE. I AM CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE THAI SIDE, AND MR. BOEHM, POLITICAL/MILITARY COUNSELOR, IS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE AMERICAN SIDE. FIRST OF ALL, I WISH TO INFORM YOU OF THE DUTIES OF THIS COMMITTEE. THE MOST IMPORTANT DUTY WE HAVE IS TO CONSIDER AND REVIEW VARIOUS SITUATIONS OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY, IN LAOS, IN CAMBODIA, AND IN VIETNAM, AND TO WHAT EXTENT THEY

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CAUSE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE SECURITY OF THIS REGION. AFTER

CONSIDERATION OF VARIOUS SITUATIONS WHICH HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THIS REGION, WE CONSIDER THE WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FORCES, AS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED IN STATEMENTS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT, OR BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OR BY THE SUPREME COMMAND.

WE HAVE TWO DUTIES OF IMPORTANCE, TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION, THEN TO CONSIDER REDUCING MILITARY FORCES IN A SUITABLE MANNER AND COORDINATION WITH THE SITUATION.

TODAY, I ATTENDED A MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE, A MEETING SIMILAR TO MEETINGS WE HAVE HELD REGULARLY. SINCE THE PRESS IS INTERESTED I AM TAKING THIS SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE YOU SOME INFORMATION ON THESE MEETINGS WE HOLD, WHICH ARE HELD SOMETIMES IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SUPREME COMMAND, AND SOMETIMES IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON WAS HELD IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SUPREME COMMAND. BOTH SIDES REVIEWED VARIOUS SITUATIONS WHICH HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE SECURITY OF THIS REGION. SINCE THERE HAS BEEN VIOLENT FIGHTING, BOTH IN THE REPUBLIC OF CAMBODIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, THIS COMMITTEE HELD CONSULTATIONS ON VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SITUATION WHICH ARE OCCURRING. FURTHERMORE, WE AGREED TO HOLD FURTHER CONSULTATIONS CONSECUTIVELY. THIS MEANS THAT THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE THE LAST, THAT FURTHER MEETINGS WILL HAVE TO BE HELD TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION.

I HOWEVER WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT BECAUSE OF THE VIOLENT FIGHTING IN CAMBODIA AND IN VIETNAM, THIS COMMITTEE DID NOT TAKE UP FOR CONSIDERATION ANY REDUCTION OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES IN THAILAND AT ALL, I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THIS ESPECIALLY.

REPORTER DOES THAT MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE NO WITHDRAWALS IN 1975?

KRIANGSAK THAT QUESTION CANNOT BE ANSWERED YET. OUR PLAN IS TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS, DEPENDING

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ON THE SITUATION. SHOULD THE SITUATION NOT BE TRUSWORTHY, WE WOULD NEED TO HAVE A DETERRENT FORCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, PRESS CONFERENCES, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO01301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750025-0703
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750128/aaaaayhd.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <18 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL DRIANGSAK CHAMANAN ON U.S. FORCE LEVEL TALKS GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN GAVE A NEWS CONFERENCE JANUARY 22
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TH, US, (KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006